

# Basics of Glass and Glass-Ceramic Formulation

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ICG Glass for a Sustainable Future

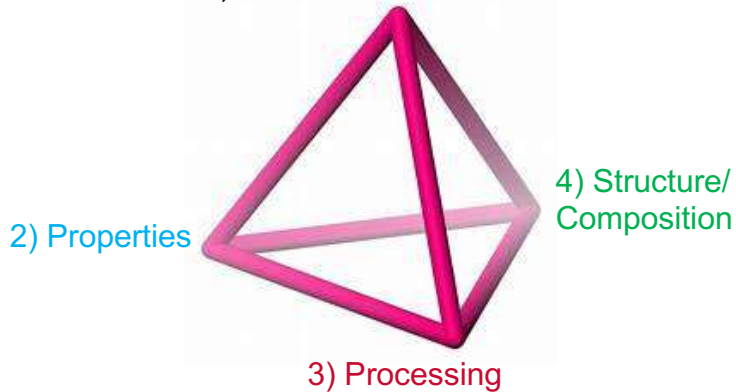
April 29-May 3, 2024

Lloret del Mar, Spain

29 April, 15:50-16:30

# Considerations for Industrialization

1) Product/ Performance



## 2) Final properties

- Application
- Life cycle:
  - Beer bottles vs phone cases vs nuclear waste storage
  - Product cycle (shipping, etc.)
  - Recyclability

## 3) Processing

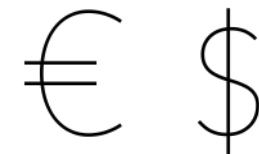
- Interaction with equipment
- Redox
- Melting technology
- Batch/continuous
- Fuel

## 1) Product considerations

- Commodity, high volume
- Specialty, low volume
- Can influence ability to change price, composition, processing

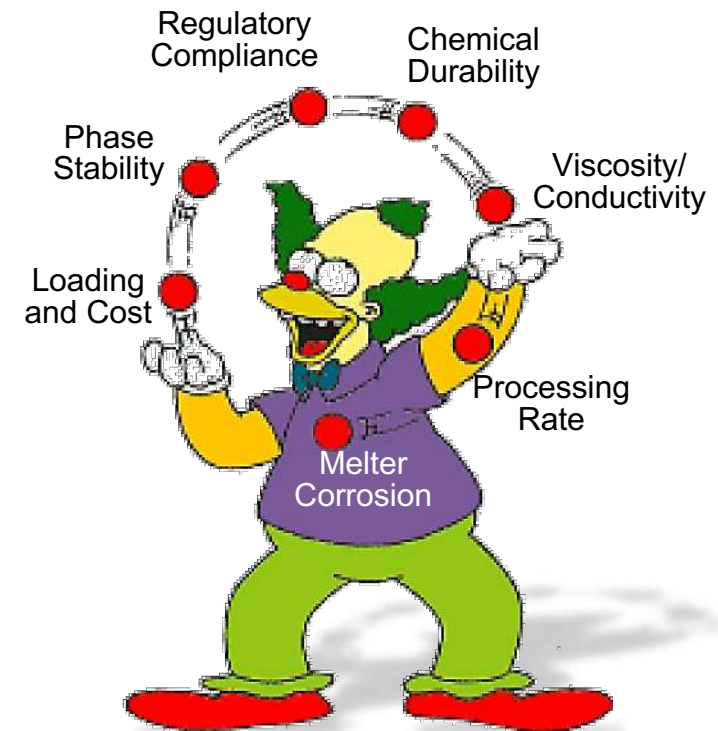
## 4) Composition/ Raw materials choices

- Purity, reproducibility
- Melt rate
- Availability
- Cost (margin)



# Strategies for formulation

- Depends on the **goal**
  - Scientific understanding
    - i.e., with spectroscopy, structural investigation
  - Industrial processes optimization
    - Often unanalyzable complexities
- Goals in formulation
  - Property optimization
  - Processing constraints
  - Some factors may be more important



*Juggling factors in nuclear waste glass formulation*

# Simple strategies: For understanding component effects

- **Experimental approaches**
  - One-at-a-time composition variation (add or substitute)
  - Change ratios
  - Leave-one-out
  - Compare substitution of one component at same level
- **Practical considerations**
  - Same composition different precursors
- **Structural model or metric**
  - Vary on other quantifiable metric affected by composition
- **Multi-component approaches**
  - Statistical design for empirical models
  - Machine learning

## FORMULATION STRATEGIES for

- **Glasses**
- **Glass-ceramics**

Primary examples from:

- Nuclear glass
- Optical glass

Glass families:

- Oxide
- Chalcogenide
- Fluoride
- Metallic

ICG TCs :

03 – structure and properties

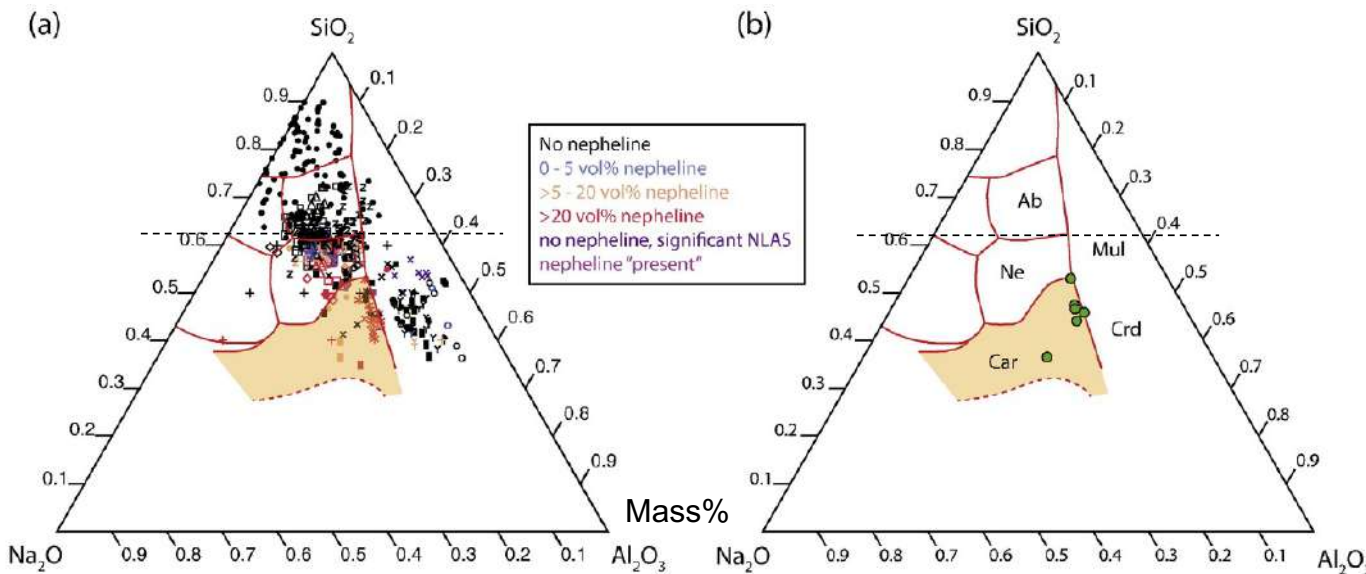
05 – nuclear and hazardous waste vitrification

07 – nucleation, crystallization, & glass ceramics

18 – glass melting technology

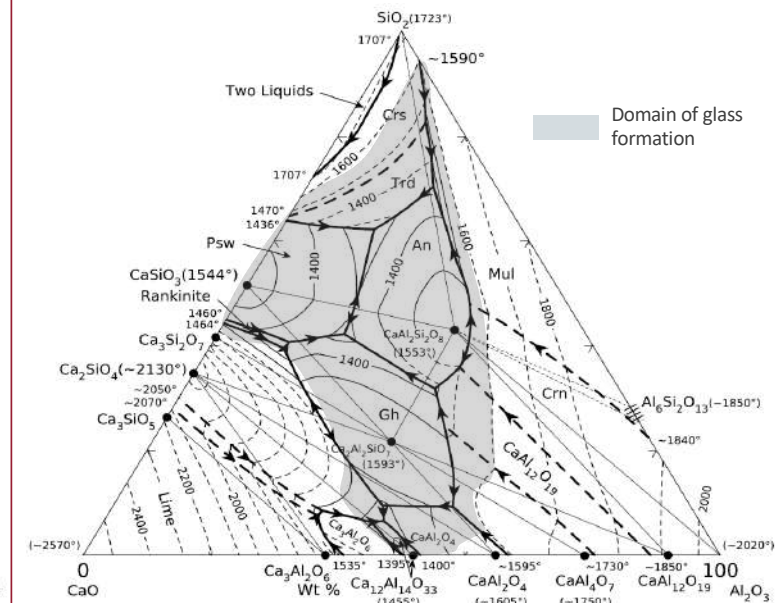
# Phase diagrams Glass-forming & crystallization

- **Na<sub>2</sub>O-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-SiO<sub>2</sub>**  
Nepheline crystallization  
Limits on [SiO<sub>2</sub>] based on phase diagram  
("nepheline discriminator")



Li, Hrma, Vienna, et al, *JNCS* 331, 202 (2003) McCloy et al, *JNCS* 409, 149 (2015)

- **CaO-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-SiO<sub>2</sub>**  
PIVIC glass phase  
(procédé d'incinération-vitrification in can)



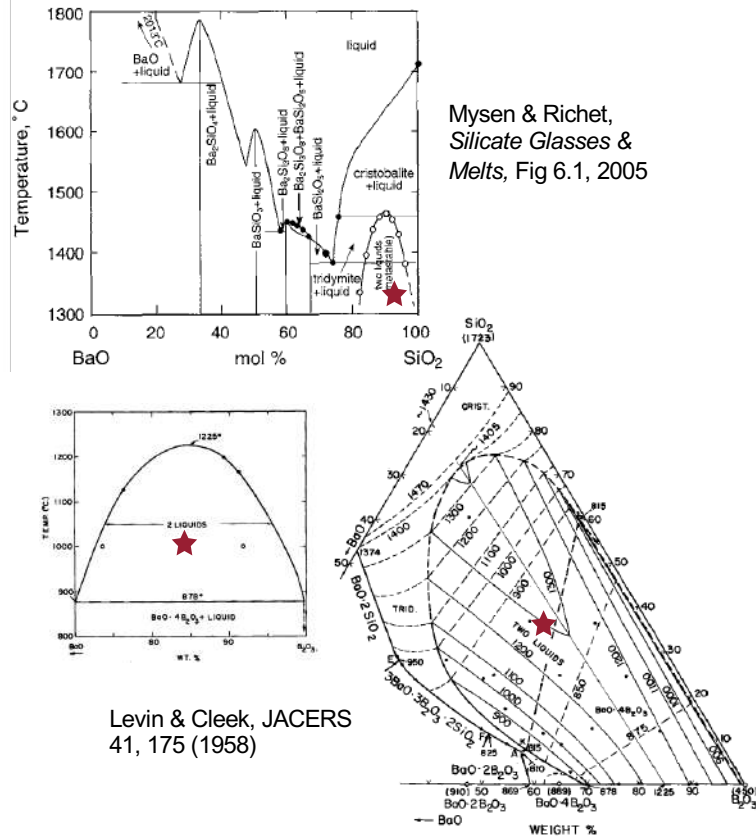
Perret et al – DEM 2021



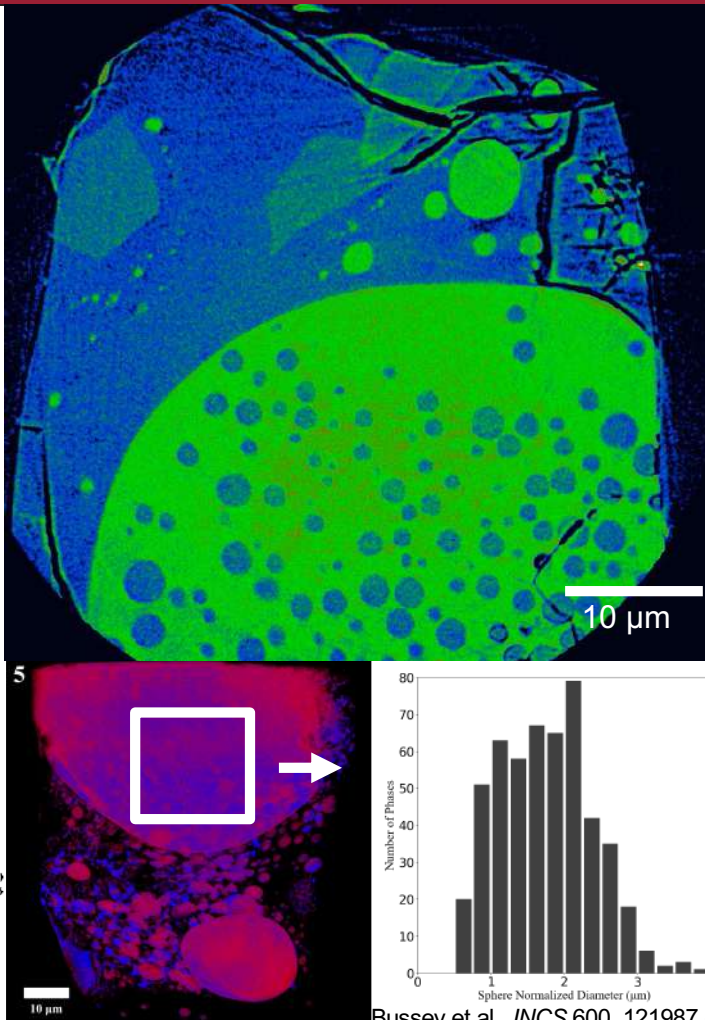
# Phase diagrams

## Phase separation

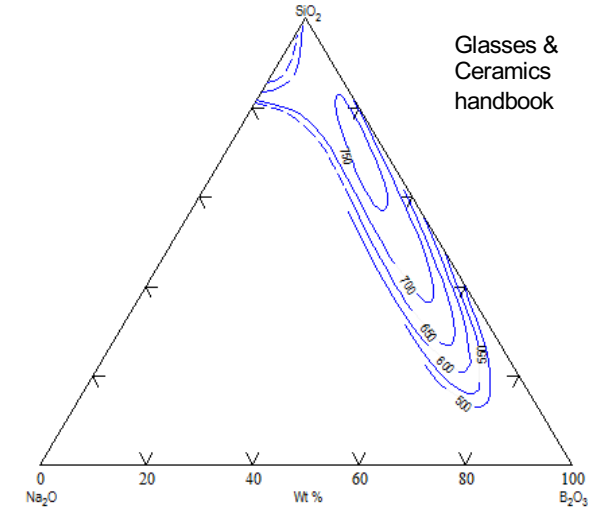
### BaO-B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-SiO<sub>2</sub>



**Goal: quench 2 immiscible glass phases**

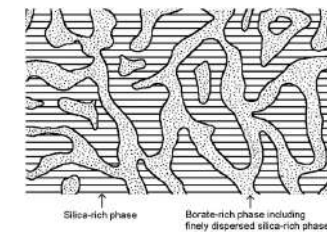


### Na<sub>2</sub>O-B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-SiO<sub>2</sub>

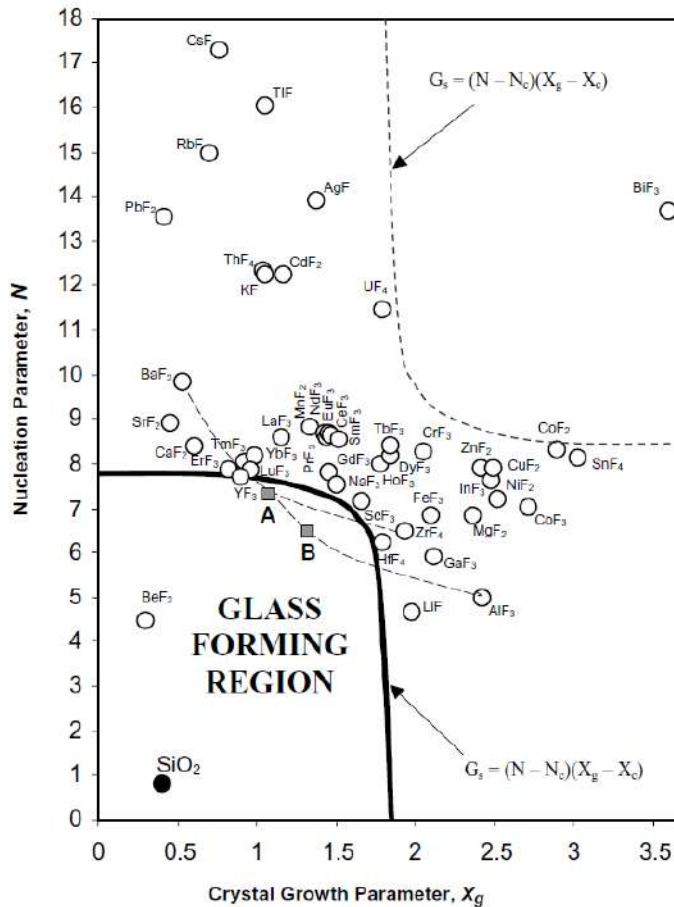


**Leachable alkali borosilicate (Vycor, spinodal) – wt%**

SiO<sub>2</sub> 65  
B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 26  
Na<sub>2</sub>O 9

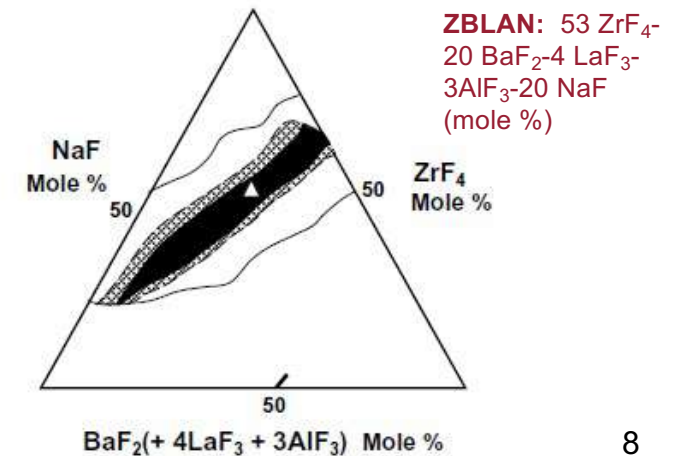
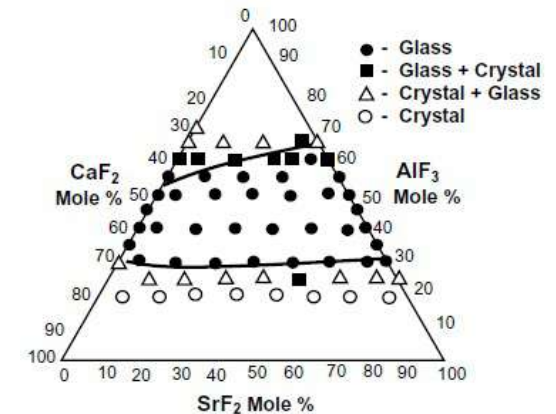


# Parameterization: Designing fluoride systems



- Estimations of nucleation and growth effects in ionic glasses can be parameterized  
Based on relations of viscosity at and below melting
- Parameters  
Interatomic bond energy per volume  
Ion volume  
Entropy of fusion
- Tabulated data can be used to calculate glass stability ( $G_s$ ) and estimate phase diagram boundaries for glass-forming  
Good reproduction of experiments  
Accurate prediction of ZBLAN stability

## Experimental/theoretical glass forming regions

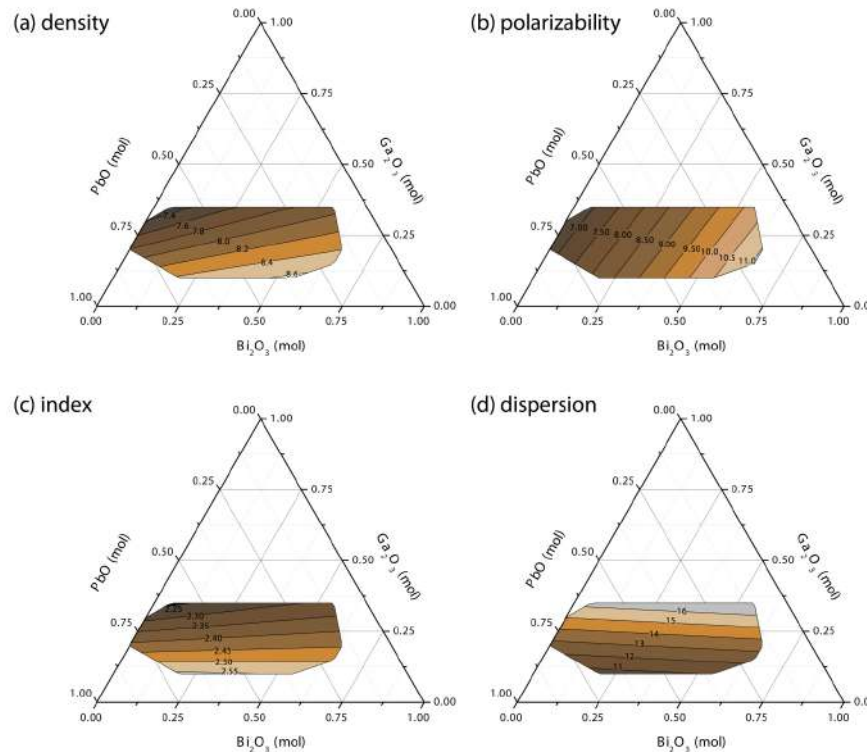




# Structural or chemical proxies: Optical basicity

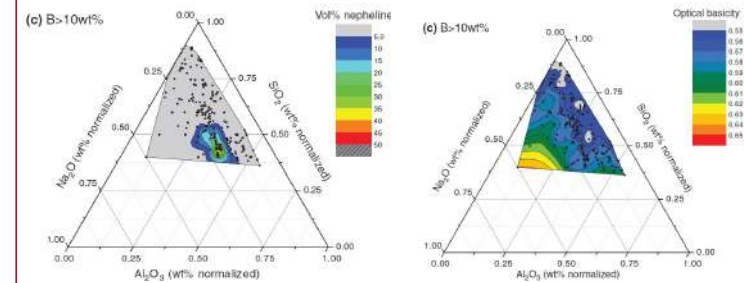
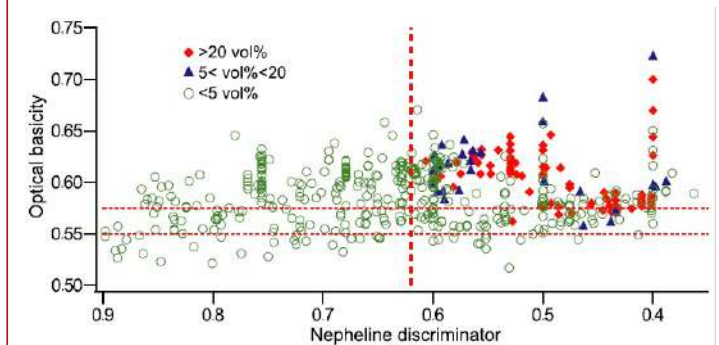
- Optical basicity
  - Polarizability of cations & oxygens
  - “Electron donating power”
- Applications
  - Optical properties
  - Redox states
  - Slag capacities
  - Crystallization

## PbO-Bi<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>



McCloy, Proc. SPIE 8016, 80160G (2011)

## Nepheline crystallization in aluminosilicates



McCloy et al, *IJAGS* 2, 201 (2011)

# Structural or chemical proxies: Topological constraint theory

- Constraints and degrees of freedom

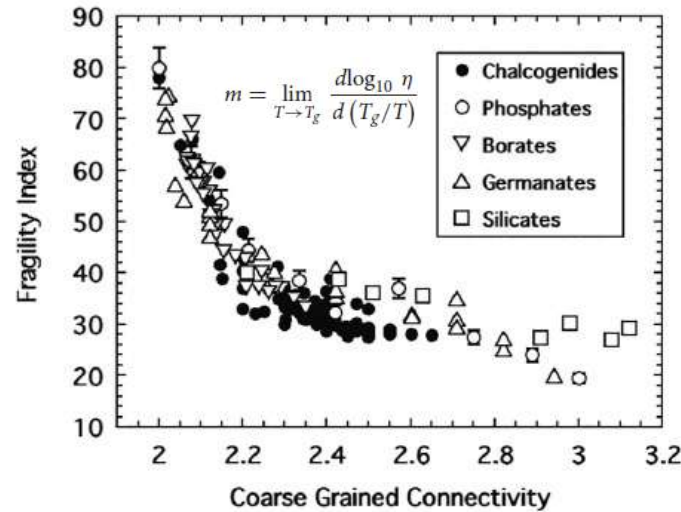
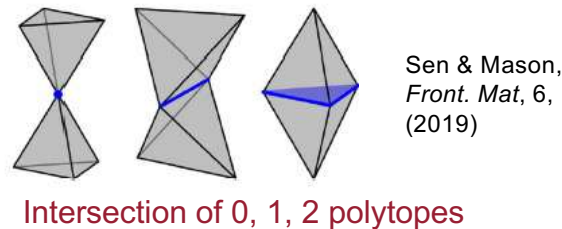
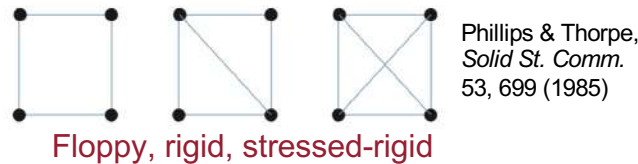
Stressed rigid vs floppy  
More sophisticated topologies

- Affect many properties

Viscosity  
Optical  
Mechanical  
Corrosion  
Etc.

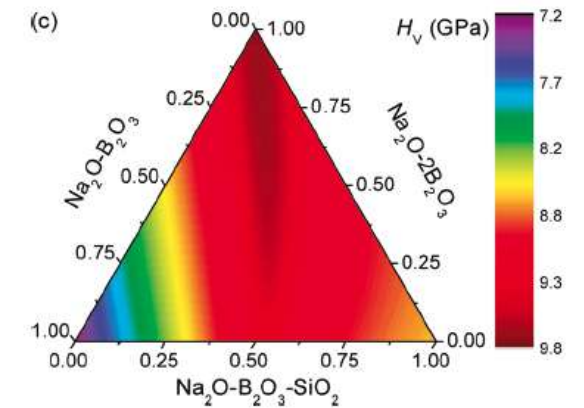
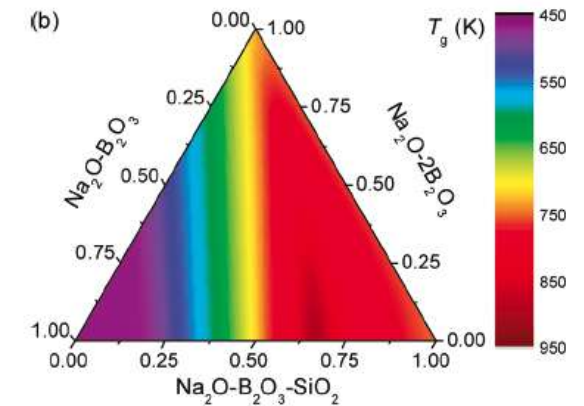
- Amenable to parameterization

- Other similar chemo-structural, e.g. polymerization (NBO/T)



Sidebottom, *JNCS*, 534, 119641 (2019); *Front. Mat.* 6, 119641 (2019)

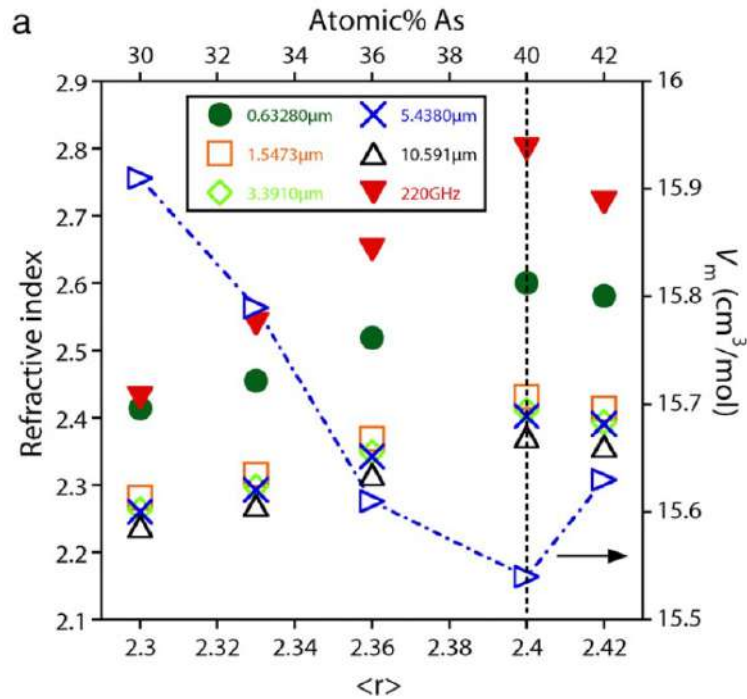
## Temperature-dependent constraints



Smedskjaer et al, *JPCB*, 115, 12930 (2011)

# Constraint theory: Designing chalcogenide systems

## As-S



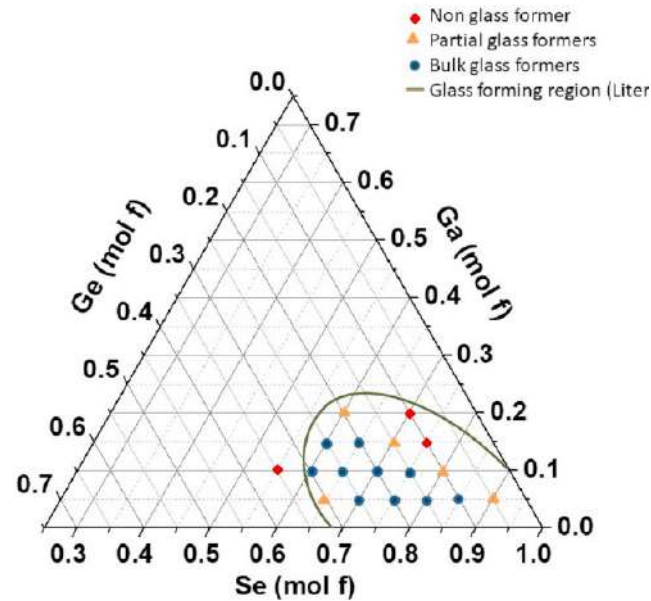
$$\langle r \rangle = \sum_{n=1}^l x_i N_i = 3x_{As} + 2x_S$$

McCloy et al, *JNCS* 356, 1288 (2010)

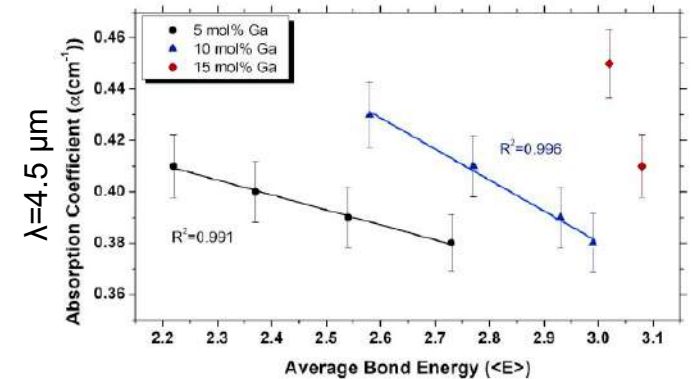
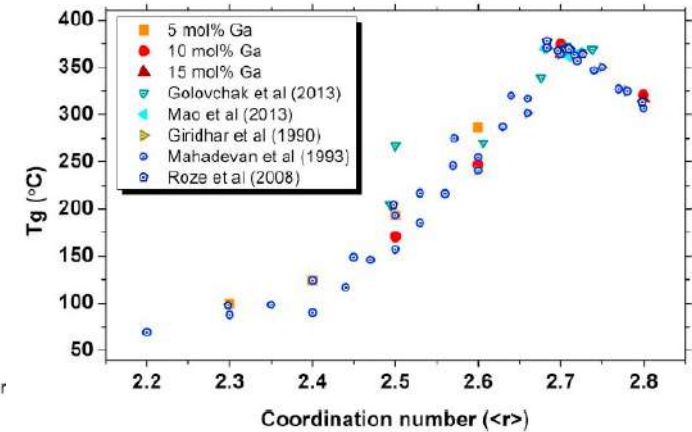
## Ge-Ga-Se

$\langle r \rangle$ : avg coordination #  
(topological constraint theory)

$\langle E \rangle$ : mean atomic bond energy

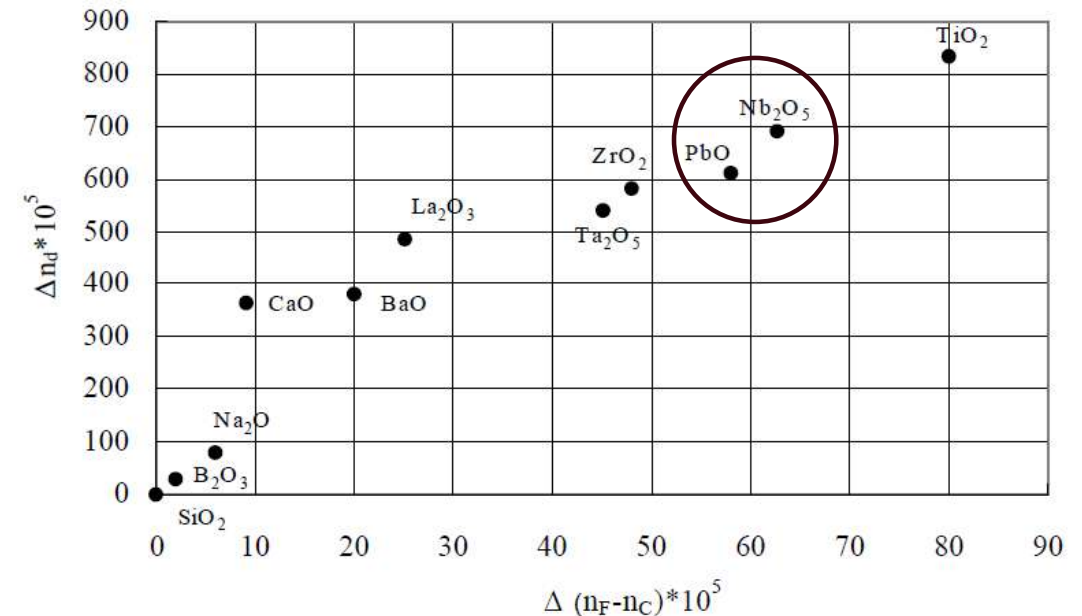


Lonergan et al, *JNCS* 510, 192 (2019); 511, 115 (2019)



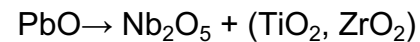
# Example: Substitutions in optical glasses

- “Environmentally friendly” – no As, Pb, Cd
- Have to figure out what component does
  - Decolorization, redox control (As)
  - Coloration (Cd)
  - Fining (As)
  - Polarizing power (Pb)
- One or more substitutions may be necessary
  - Murano glass (for As)**
    - Substitutes (2012):  $\text{CeO}_2$ , blast furnace slag, but require higher temperature (1500 vs 1400°C)
  - Ohara optical glass (for Pb)\***
    - $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2$  in combination, low solubility



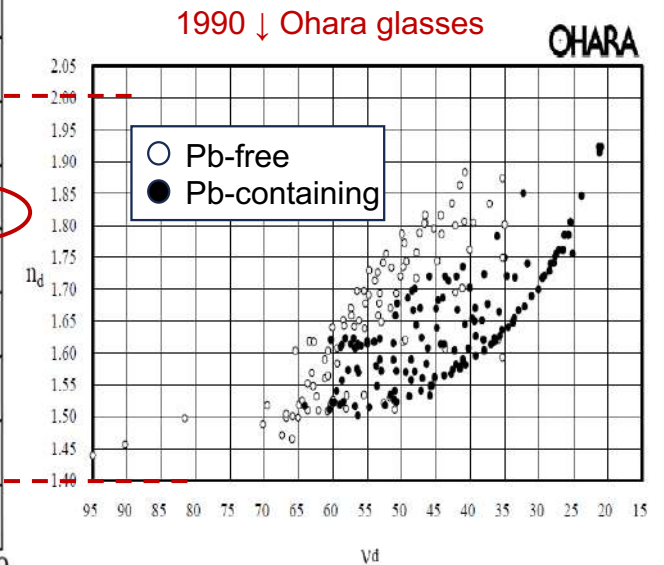
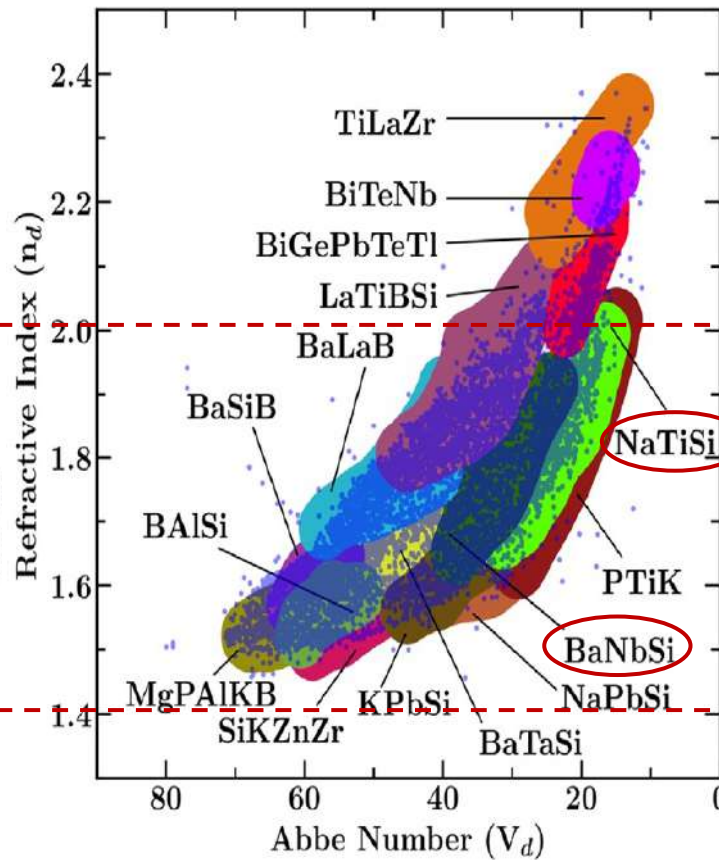
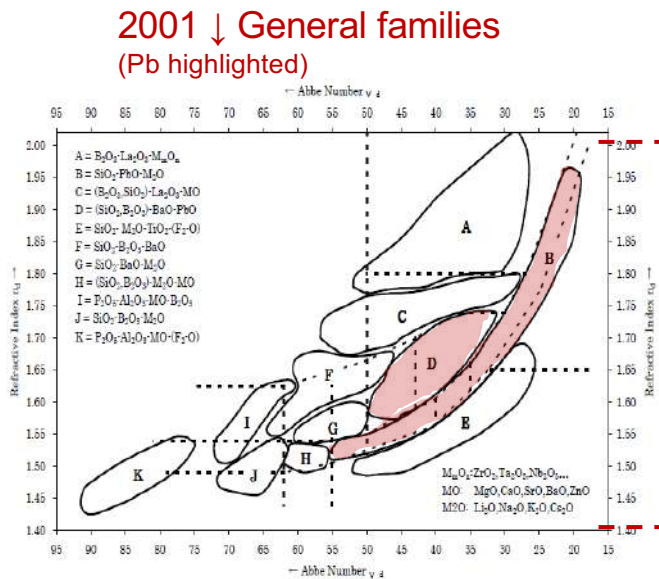
Substituting for Pb, need high index & dispersion

$n_d = 587.6 \text{ nm}$ ;  $n_F = 486.1 \text{ nm}$ ;  $n_C = 656.3 \text{ nm}$





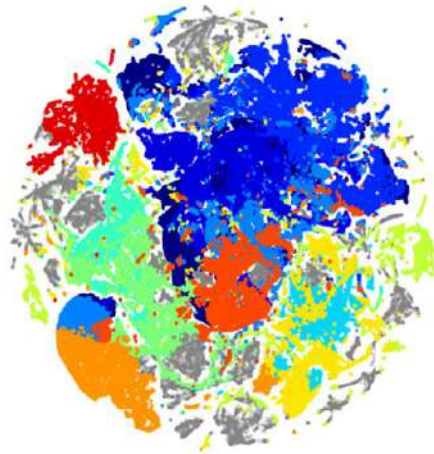
# Example: Substitutions in optical glasses



2022 Machine Learning (ML) regions (w data)

# Massive ML glass databases

~275,000 compositions  
221 different components (82 elements)  
25 properties



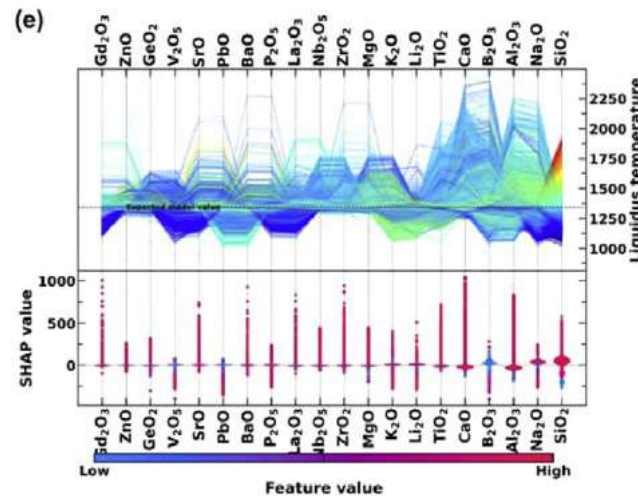
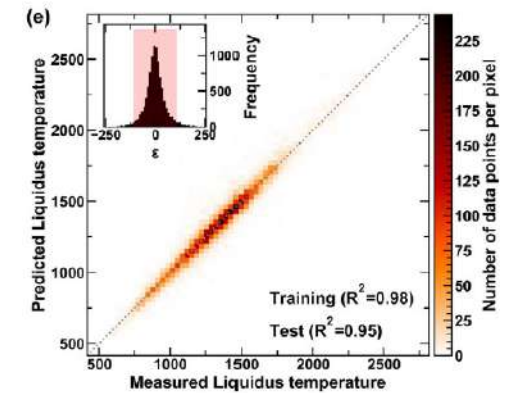
- SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, K<sub>2</sub>O, Na<sub>2</sub>O
- Na<sub>2</sub>O, SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, CaO
- SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, MgO, CaO
- SiO<sub>2</sub>, Na<sub>2</sub>O, K<sub>2</sub>O, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>
- P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Na<sub>2</sub>O, Li<sub>2</sub>O
- B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Na<sub>2</sub>O, Li<sub>2</sub>O, K<sub>2</sub>O
- B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Li<sub>2</sub>O
- BaF<sub>2</sub>, NaF, ZnF<sub>2</sub>, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>
- P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, BaO, ZnO, B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>
- PbO, B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, SiO<sub>2</sub>, ZnO
- B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, SiO<sub>2</sub>, Na<sub>2</sub>O, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>
- TeO<sub>2</sub>, ZnO, WO<sub>3</sub>, Na<sub>2</sub>O
- Miscellaneous

t-SNE to transform n-D to 2-D data

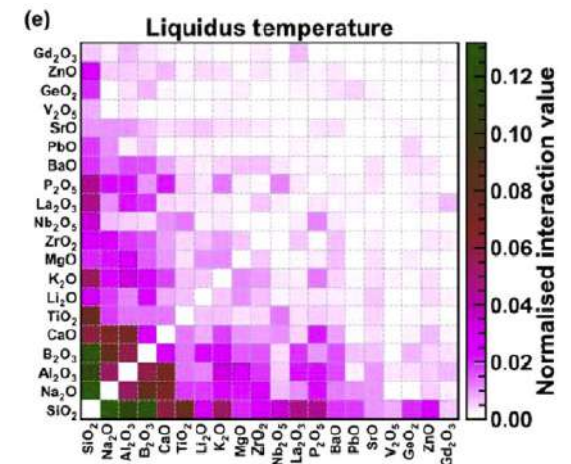
“Interpretable” machine learning algorithms:  
Shapely Additive Explanations (SHAP) measuring interactions & importance

Properties modeled

- **Physical:** temperatures, thermal parameters
- **Mechanical:** moduli, hardness, density
- **Optical:** index, dispersion, transmittance
- **Electrical:** dielectric, conductivity



Ca, Sr, Al ↑T<sub>L</sub>; Pb, B ↓T<sub>L</sub>; alkali are mixed

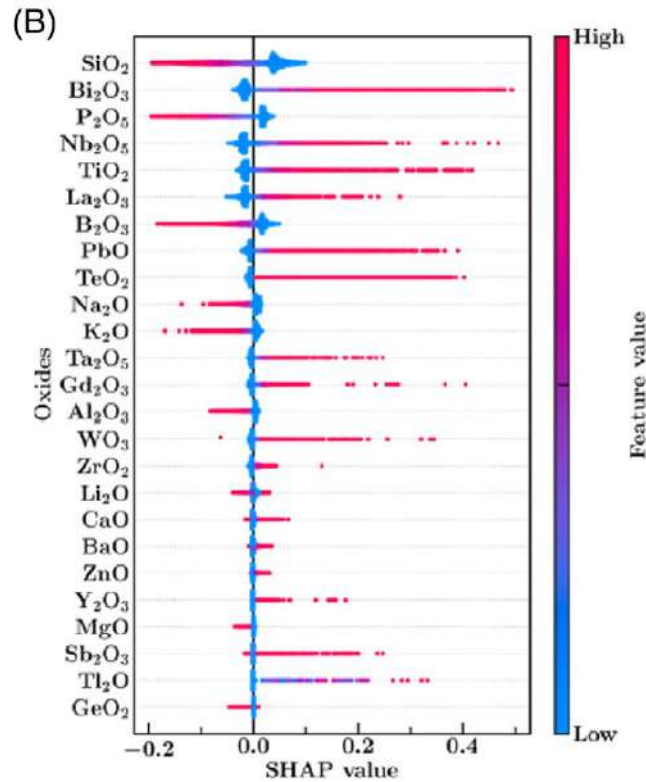


Si strongly interacts with other formers (Al, B) and these all with modifiers (Na, Ca)



# ML to help with optical glasses

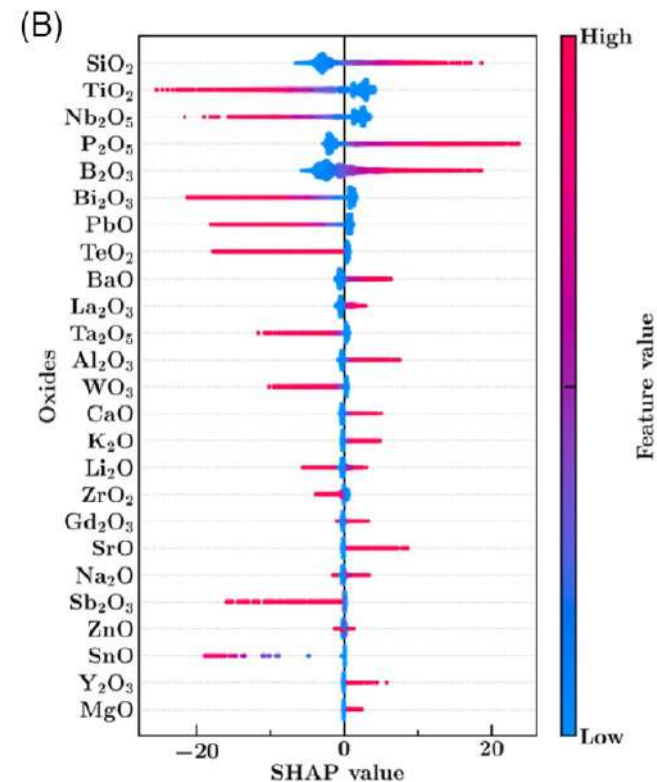
## Refractive index: $n_D$



Red vs blue:  
Magnitude of the  
wt% of the oxide in  
considered  
compositions

- Negative effect  
+ Positive effect

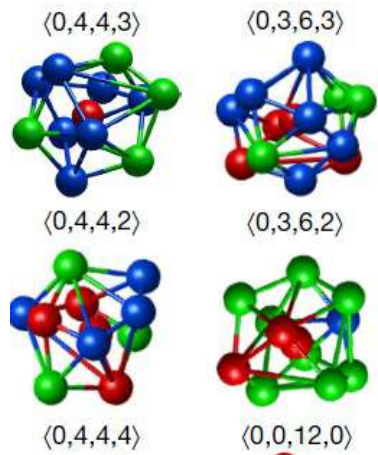
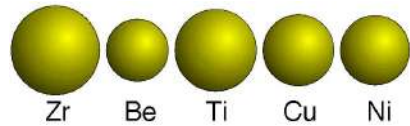
## Dispersion (Abbe #): $v_D$



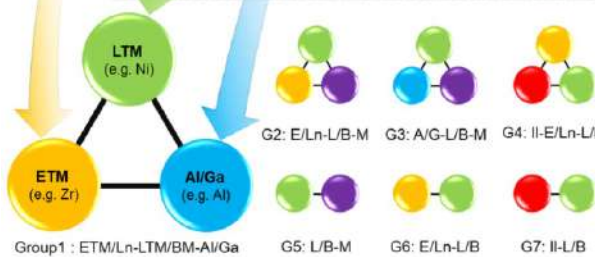
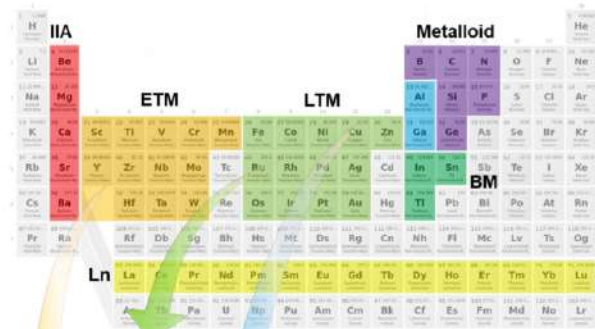
- $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$ ,  $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$  (acidic oxides)  $\downarrow$  index &  $\downarrow$  dispersion ( $\uparrow v_D$ )
- $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{PbO}$ ,  $\text{TeO}_2$ ,  $\text{Sb}_2\text{O}_3$   $\uparrow$  index &  $\uparrow$  dispersion ( $\downarrow v_D$ )
- $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$  identified as different:  $\uparrow$  index &  $\downarrow$  dispersion ( $\uparrow v_D$ ) weakly

# Metallic glasses

- Glass-forming ability (GFA) considered for metals
- Physics-informed grouping prior to ML better



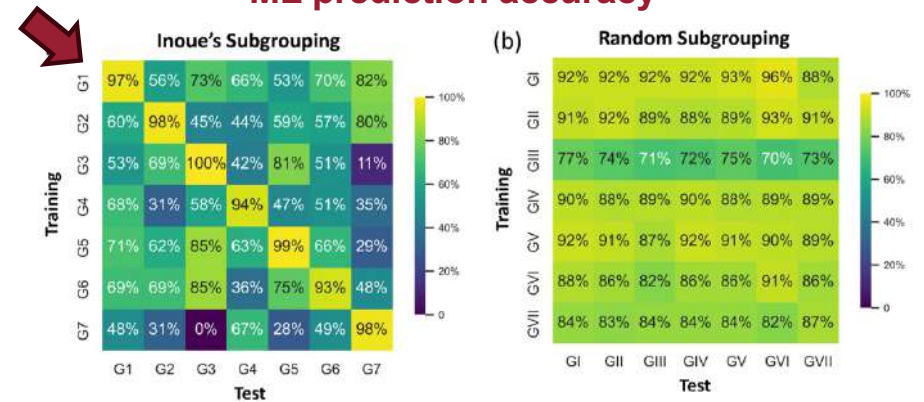
Relative size, packing



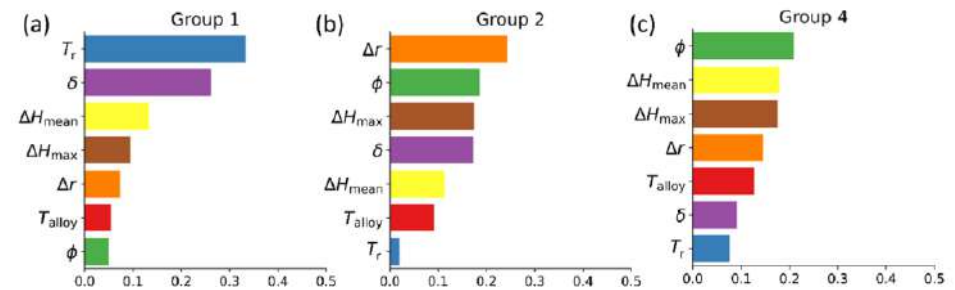
**Inoue metallic glass (MG) groupings**

1. ETM/Ln-LTM/BM-Al/Ga
2. ETM/Ln-LTM/BM-Metalloid
3. Al/Ga-LTM/BM-Metalloid
4. IIA-ETM/Ln-LTM/BM
5. LTM/BM-Metalloid
6. ETM/Ln-LTM/BM
7. IIA-LTM/BM

## ML prediction accuracy



## Importance for GFA differs between groups



## Factors

- $T_{liquidus\_alloy}$
- Atomic size difference/ ratio/ range
- Heat of mixing

# Nuclear waste glasses: Context of the problem

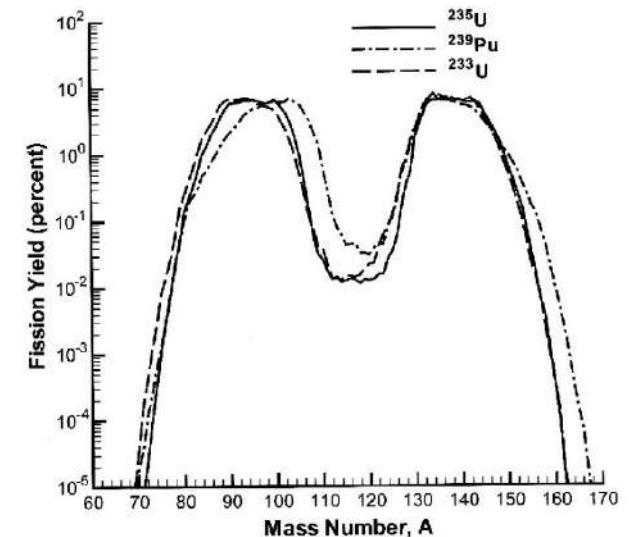
## PERIODIC TABLE OF THE ELEMENTS

H																	He	
Li	Be											B	C	N	O	F	Ne	
Na	Mg											Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar	
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr	
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe	
Cs	Ba	La	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn	
Fr	Ra	Ac																
			Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu		
			Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr		

- Nuclear waste form components
- Glass additives (green)
  - Waste: fission products, chemical additives (red)
  - Not present in waste (yellow)

*Example, US defense waste*

- Process chemicals
- Corrosion products
- Cladding
- **Fission Products**



Presence of large # of components makes traditional formulation methods difficult



# Nuclear glasses: Composition-Property Modeling

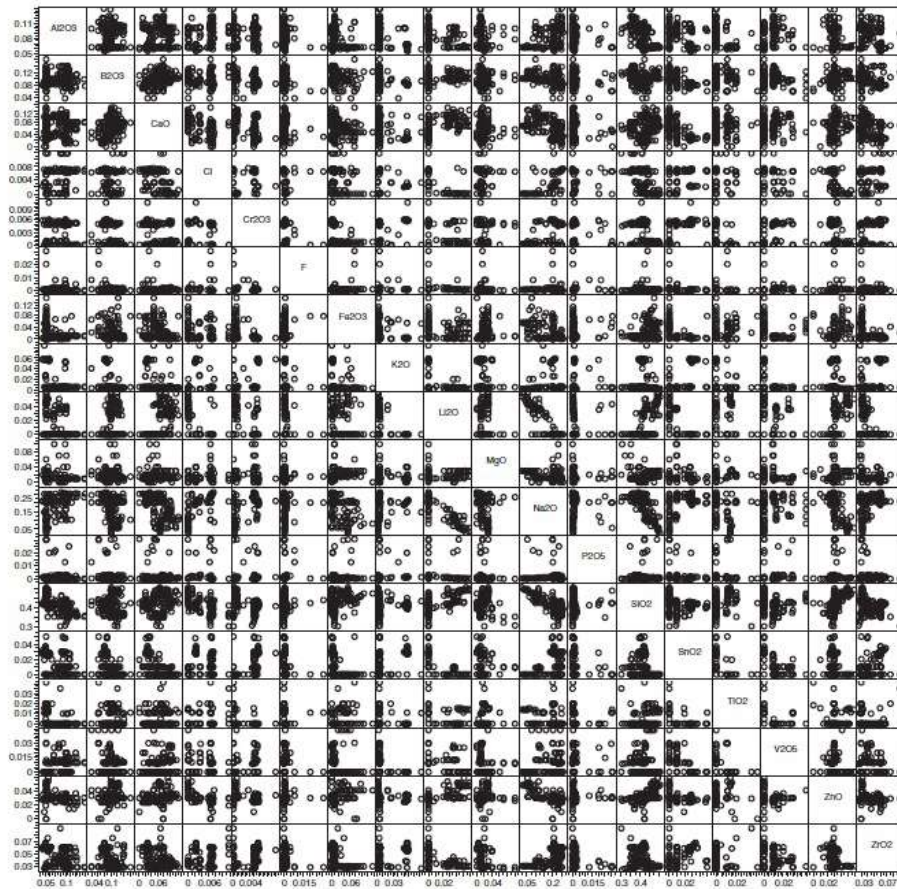
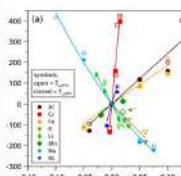
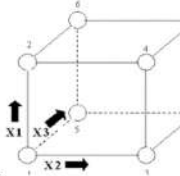
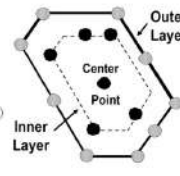
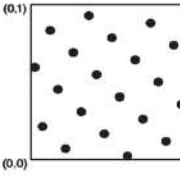
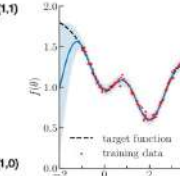


Fig. 1. Scatterplot matrix of component concentrations (normalized mass fractions) in the modeling dataset.

“Matrix glasses”: Vienna, JACERS 2014

Design Type	OCAT	Factorial	Extreme vertices	Space-filling	Autonomous (GPR based)
Graphic					
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simple construction</li> <li>Easy to visualize non-linear component effects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simple construction</li> <li>Estimates cross-term effects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Few points per variable</li> <li>Some non-linear effects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-linear effects (single components and cross term)</li> <li>Few extreme compositions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-parametric</li> <li>Find compositional spaces with large uncertainty</li> </ul>
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No cross-term effects</li> <li>Many points per variable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many points per variable</li> <li>Linear effects only</li> <li>Extreme compositions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenging to construct extreme compositions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenging to construct</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High computational costs</li> </ul>

Lu, X, et al. 2023. *J. Am. Ceram. Soc.* DOI:10.1111/jace.19333

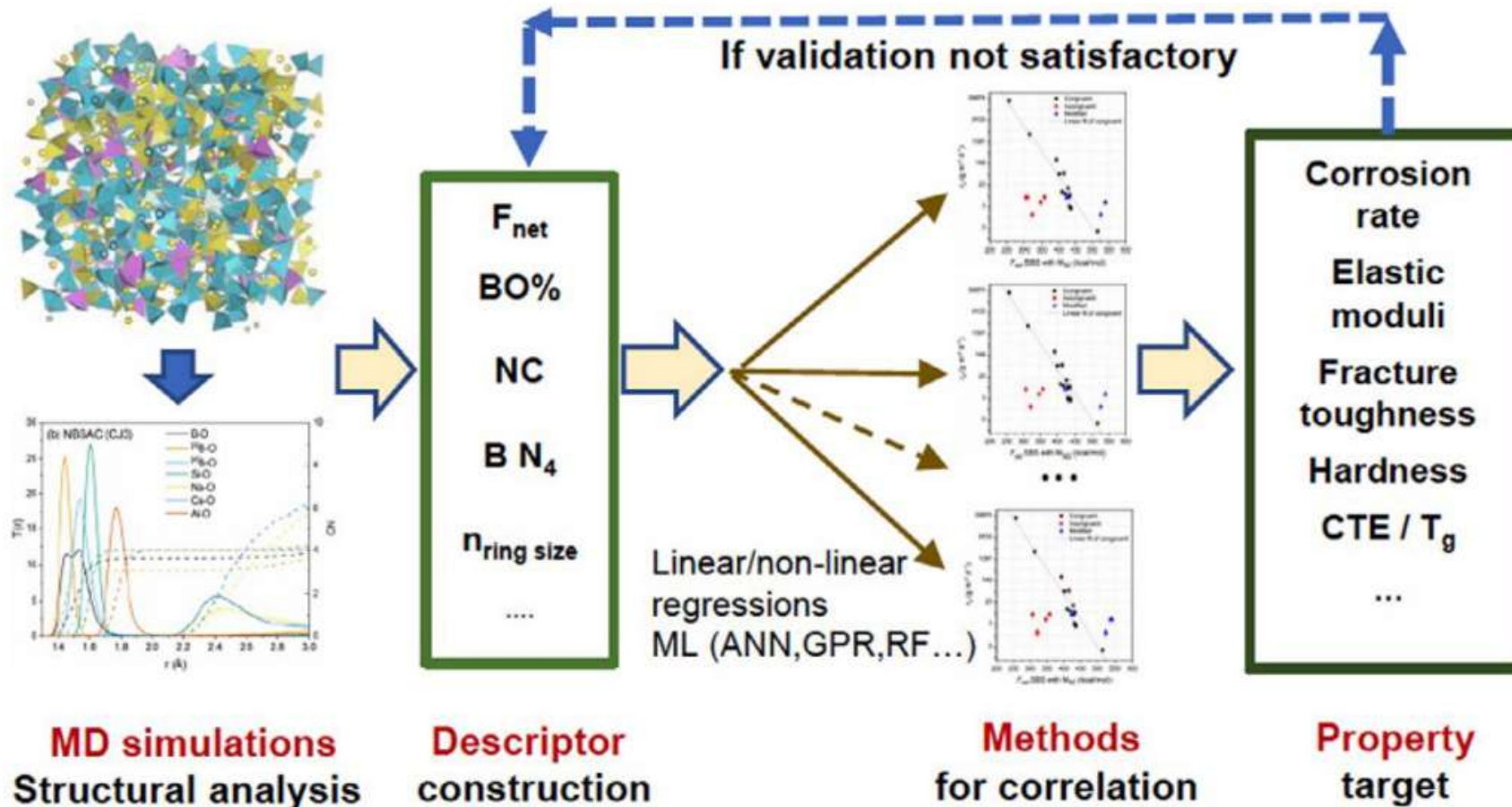
## Methods:

- Statistical approaches
- Neural networks
- Data science
- Machine-learning

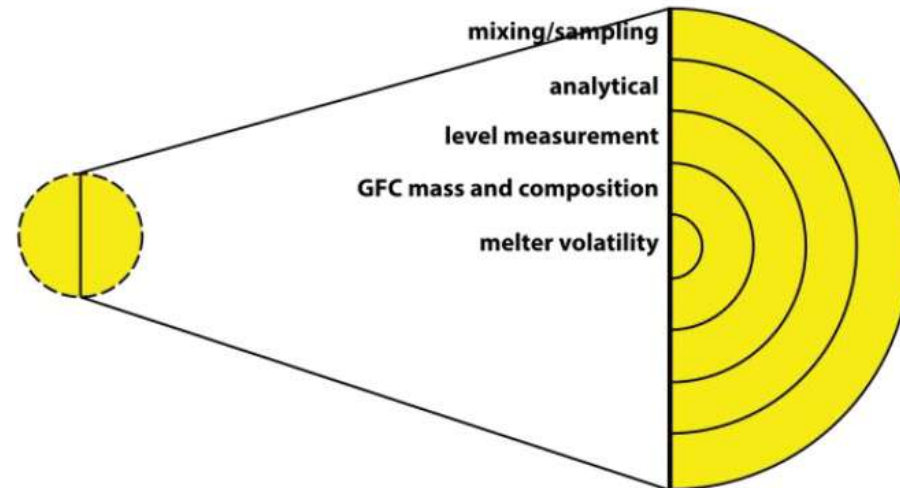
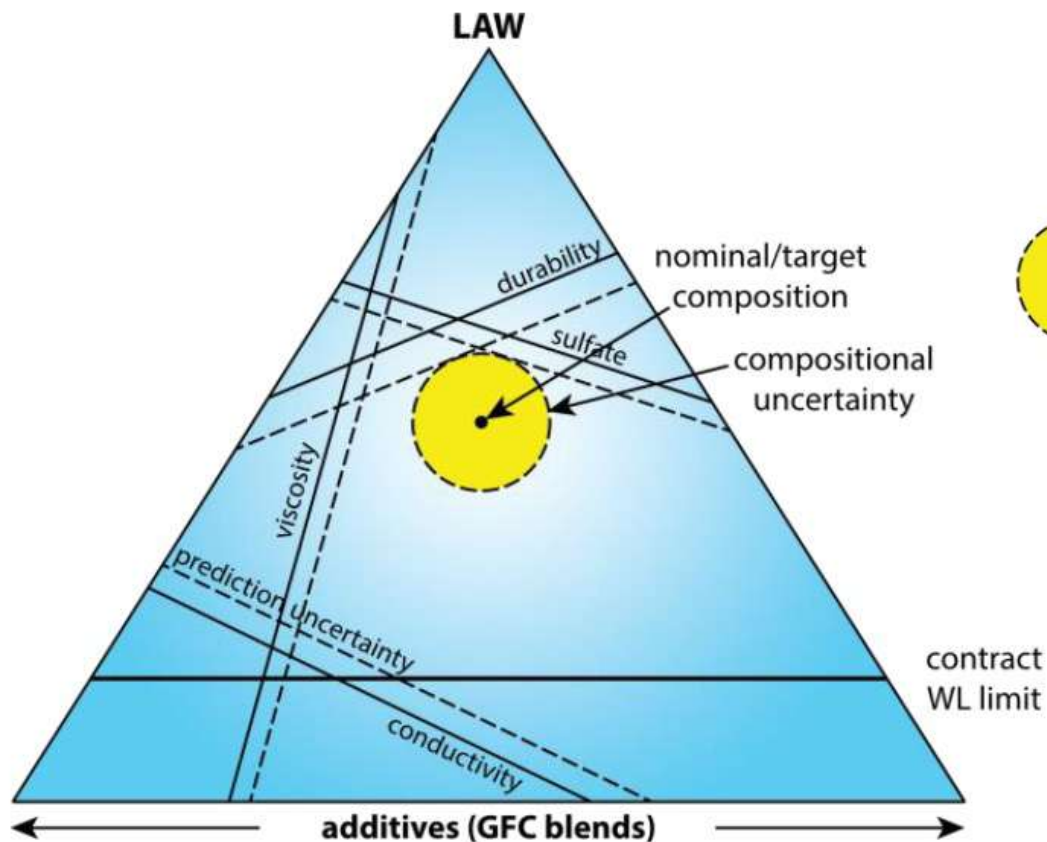
## Model composition effects for:

- Corrosion tests
- Crystallization
- Structure

# Quantitative Structure Property Relations (QSPR)



# Nuclear glasses: Formulation and Uncertainty



Optimization for highest waste loading considering **constraints & uncertainties**



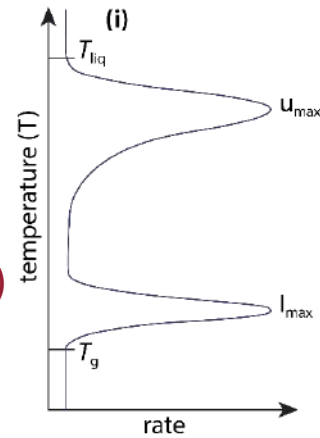
# Glass-ceramics

# Processes for Glass-Ceramic Fabrication

**Separated**

*nucleation (N)*

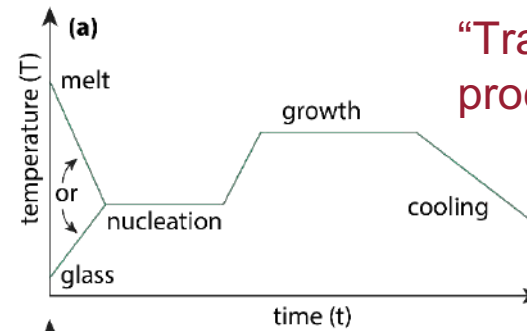
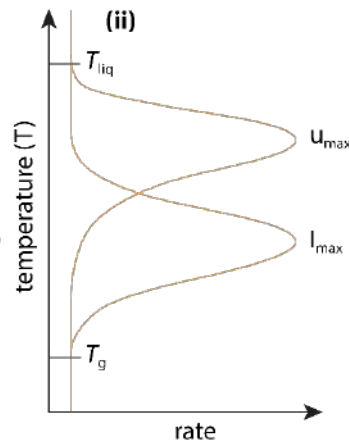
*growth (G)*



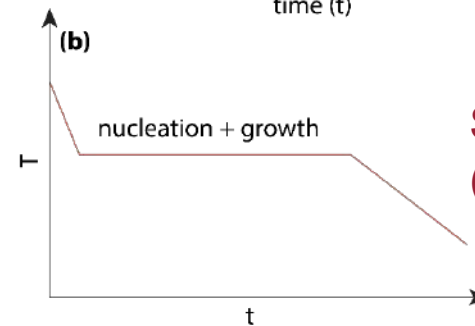
**Overlapping**

*nucleation*

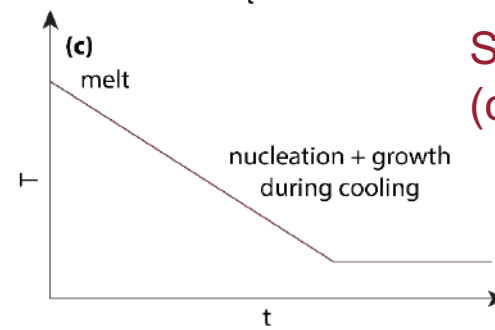
*growth*



"Traditional" GC processing



Simultaneous N&G (isothermal)



Simultaneous N&G (continuous cool)

# Nuclear waste GC: Design issues

- **Consider waste composition (elements) & form (solid, liquid)**  
Identify problematic components for solubility (e.g., Pu) and durability (e.g., Na)
- **Identify desired crystalline phases**  
Add components to produce these phases (e.g.  $\text{TiO}_2$ )  
Consider substitutional flexibility of target crystals (for waste ions)  
Design for tolerance of waste variability
- **Design suitable melt chemistry**  
Add components to create glass (e.g.  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$ )  
Consider undissolved phases, source chemicals, intermediate reactions, volatility  
Consider any amorphous phase separation
- **Design appropriate thermal profile**
- **Ensure processability**  
Low enough liquidus temperature; high enough electrical conductivity
- **Ensure product stability**  
Radiation hardening (e.g. amorphizing phases)  
Chemical durability (e.g. glass/crystalline interfaces, residual glass)

# Other GC considerations

- Applications:
  - Radomes
  - Cookware
  - Telescopes
  - Seals

- Properties

Optical:

- Crystallite size, relative index, transparency

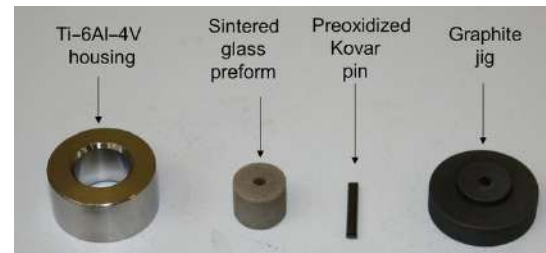
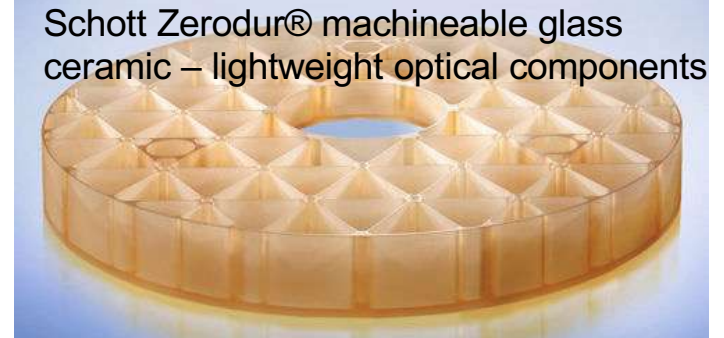
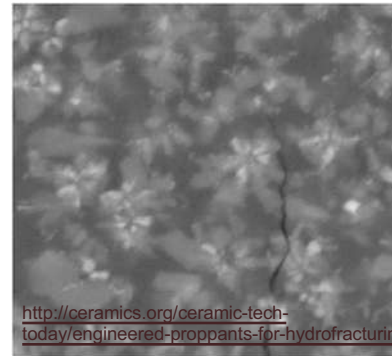
Thermal:

- Shock, CTE mismatch

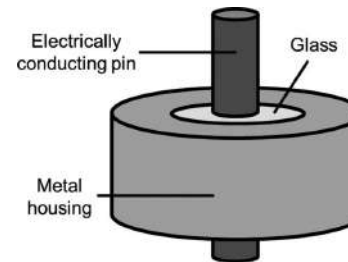
Mechanical

- Toughness

Electrical/ dielectric



Molla et al, JACERS 100, 1963 (2017)



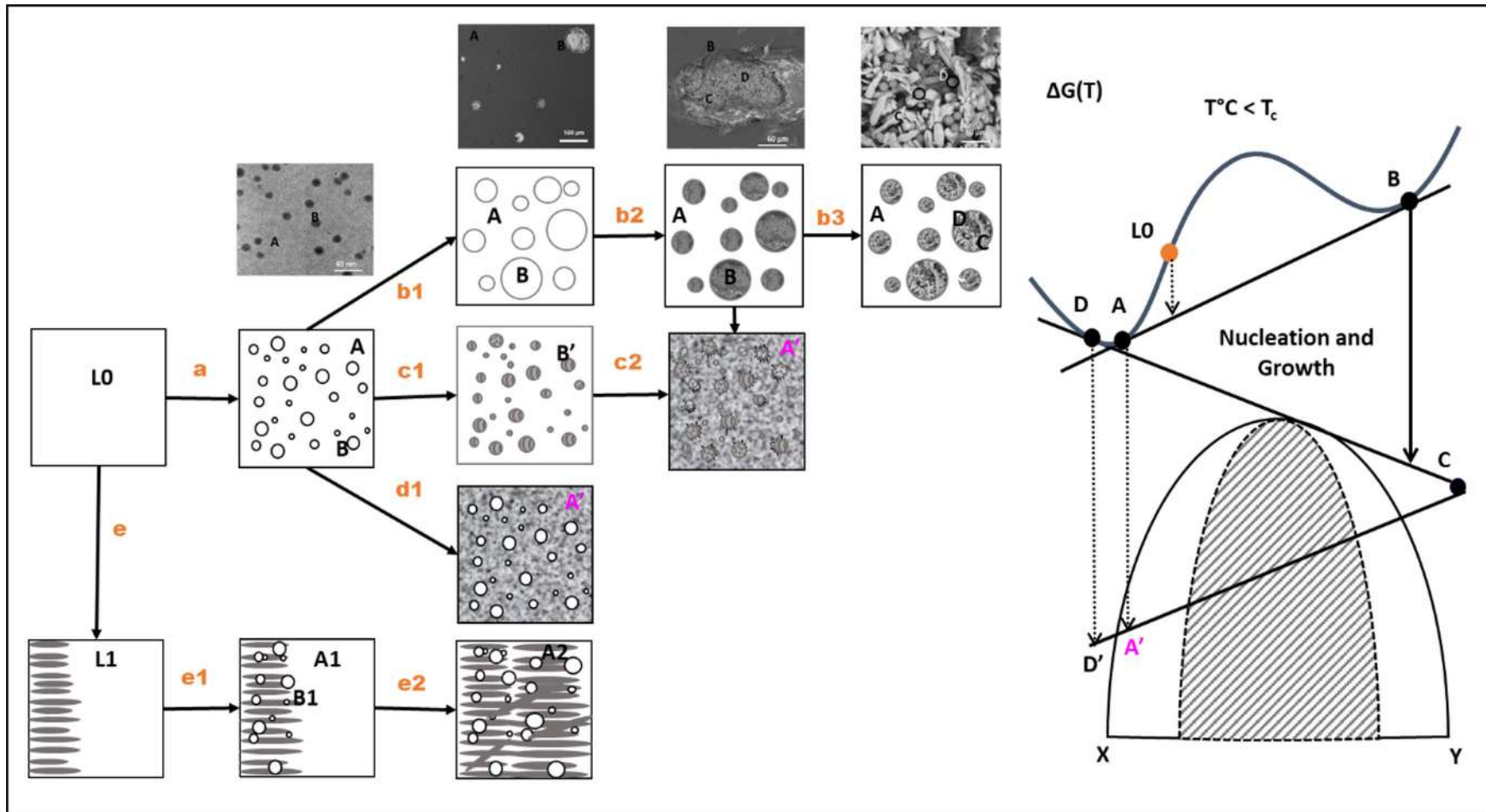
Staff et al, Int J Appl Ceram Tech 13, 956 (2016)

# Nuclear waste GC: Phase formed below liquidus T

During glass synthesis or during cooling, **microscopic or macroscopic phase separation and crystallization** can occur in the melt or in the glass

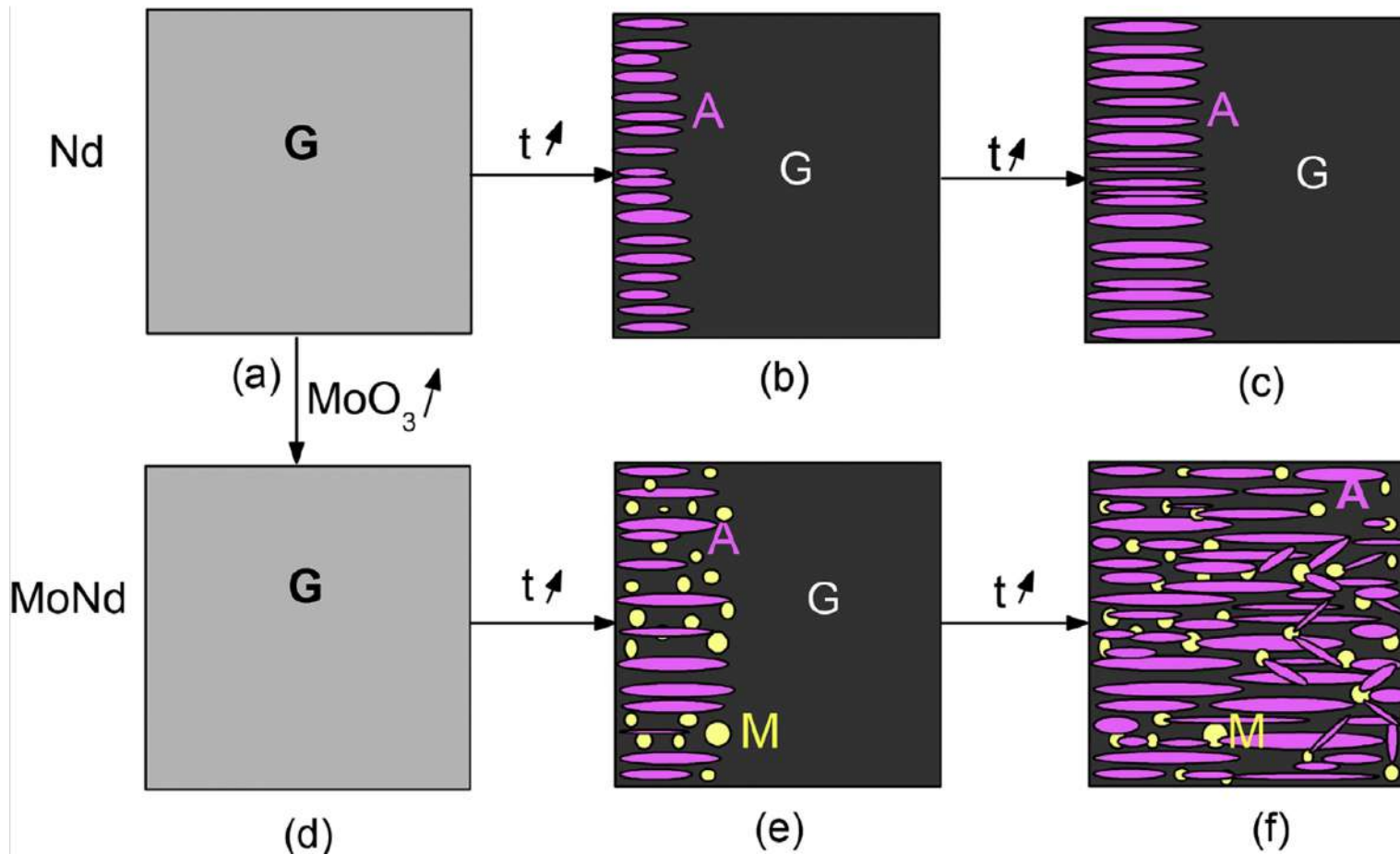
Am, Nd, La, Pr ( $M^{3+}$ )	→	Rare earth and actinide silicates: $Ca_2(Ln,An)_8(SiO_4)_6O_2$	Ln = lanthanides An = actinides
Fe, Ni, Cr ( $M^{2+}$ , $M^{3+}$ )	→	Spinel : $AB_2O_4$	
Pu, U, Ce, Zr ( $M^{4+}$ )	→	(Ce,Zr) $O_2$ , Pu, U, oxides	
Tc $^{4+/7+}$ , Re $^{4+/7+}$	→	Alkaline pertechnetate, perrhenate	
Noble metals (Ru, Pd, Rh) $M^0, M^{4+}$	→	$RuO_2$ , (Ru,Rh) $O_2$ , PdTe, (Pd,Rh)Te	
Mo ( $M^{6+}$ )	→	<b>Phase separation and crystallization</b> of alkali & AE molybdates $Na_2MoO_4$ , CsNaMoO <sub>4</sub> , $Li_2MoO_4$ , $Na_2MoO_4$ , $CaMoO_4$ , $MgMoO_4$ , CsNaMoO <sub>4</sub> , $Cs_3Na(MoO_4)_2$ CsLiMoO <sub>4</sub> $Na_3Li(MoO_4)_2$ , $CaMoO_4$	
Si $^{4+}$ , Al $^{3+}$	→	Quartz, nepheline, eucryptite, Li silicate	

# Mechanisms of phase separation & crystallization





# Phase separation & crystallization → Microstructure



**Glass**

**Apatite**  
 $\text{Ca}_2\text{Nd}_8(\text{SiO}_4)_6\text{O}_2$

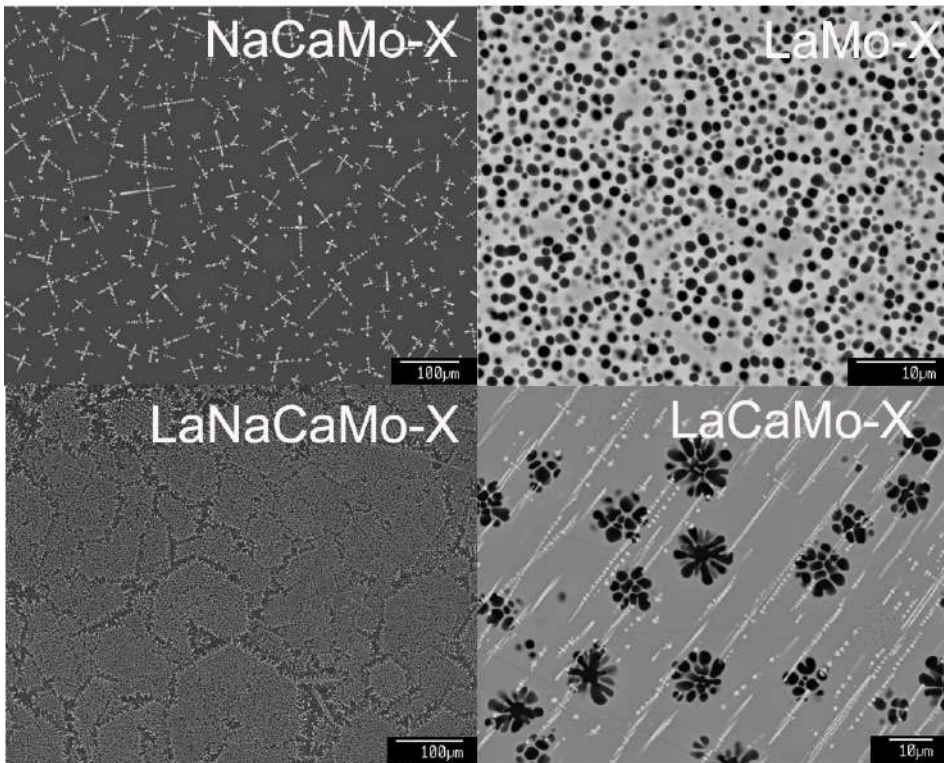
**Molybdate, e.g.**  
powellite  
 $\text{CaMoO}_4$

# Leave-one-out formulation example

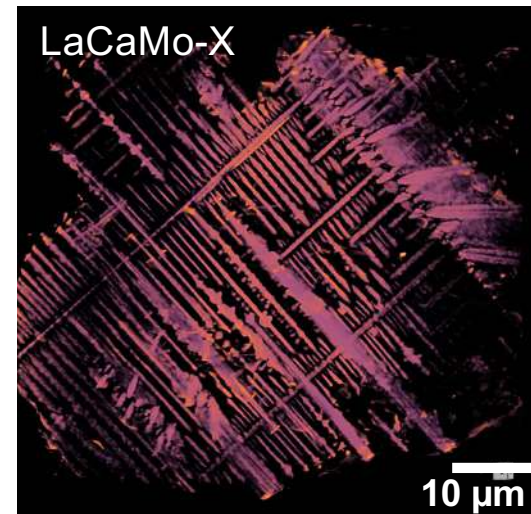
Leave out:  $\text{RE}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ , or  $\text{MoO}_3$   
 Leave out both:  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{CaO}$   
 Change RE: La, Ce, Nd, Sm, Er, Yb

Chemical compositions of the target samples in mol%.

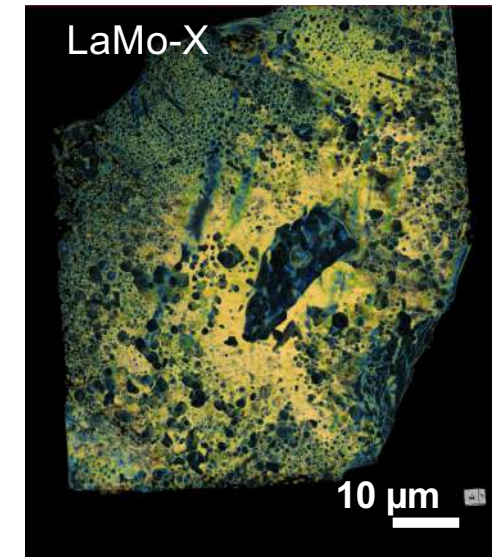
Sample Name	$\text{RE}_2\text{O}_3$	$\text{Na}_2\text{O}$	$\text{CaO}$	$\text{MoO}_3$	$\text{SiO}_2$	$\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$	$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$	$\text{ZrO}_2$
NaCaMo	—	12.14	13.58	3.53	50.51	11.95	5.14	3.15
LaNaCaMo	4.93	11.54	12.91	3.36	48.02	11.36	4.89	2.99
LaCaMo	4.93	—	24.45	3.36	48.02	11.36	4.89	2.99
LaMo	6.53	—	—	4.45	63.56	15.04	6.47	3.96
LaNaCa	5.10	11.94	13.36	—	49.69	11.75	5.06	3.10



Patil et al, *J. Nucl. Mater.*, 510, 539 (2018)



Nano-CT

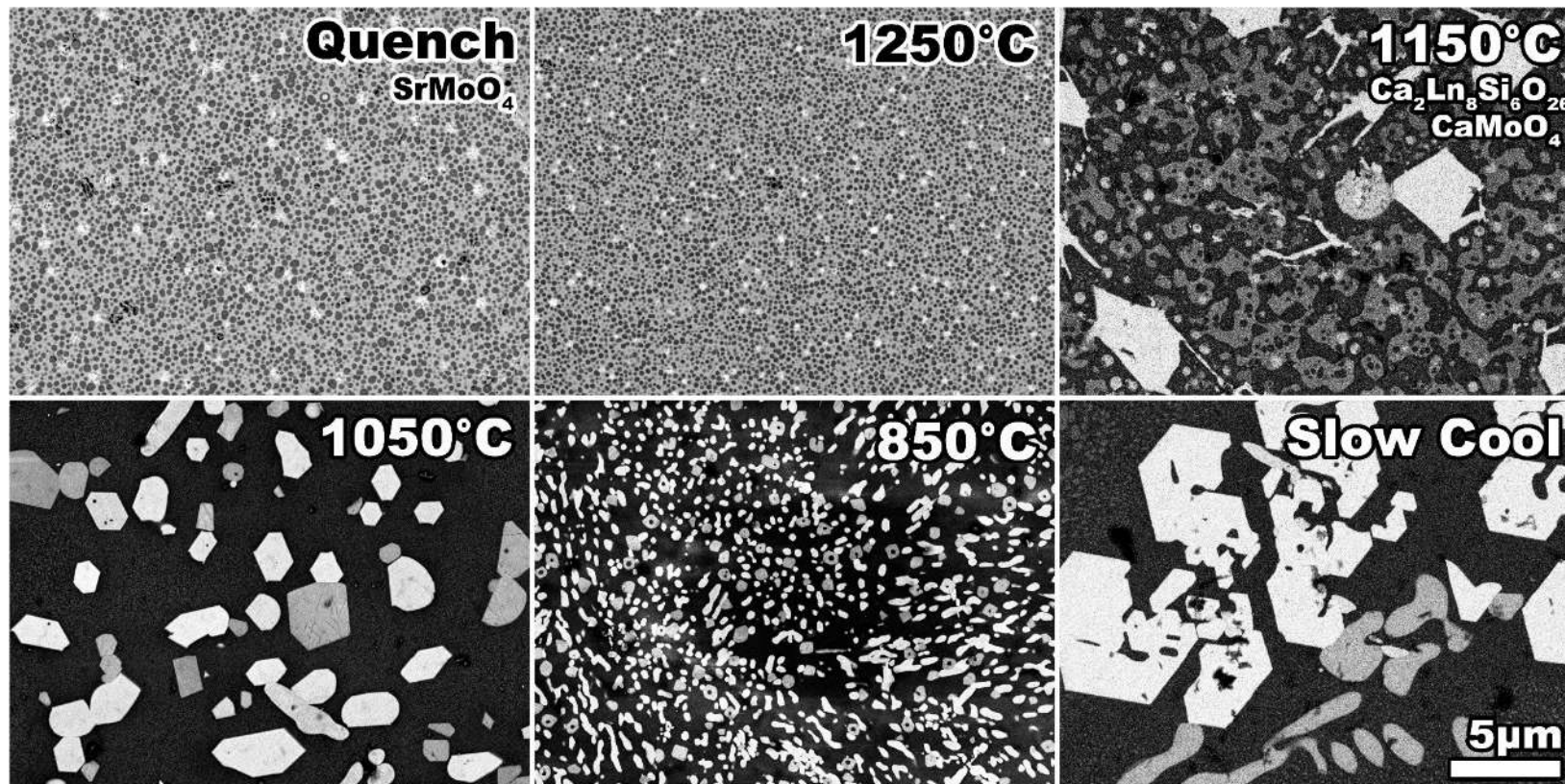


Bussey et al, *JNCS*, 600, 121987 (2023)



# Heat treatment examples

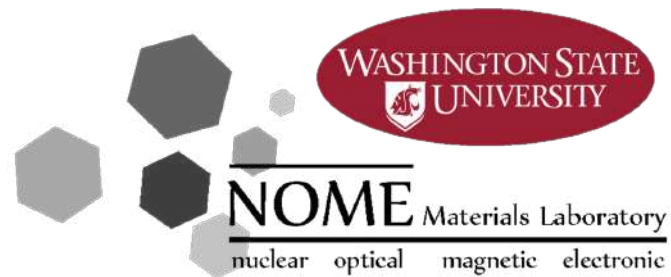
Same composition, different heat treatments



# Conclusions

- Numerous methods and strategies exist for glass formulation depending on the goals and level of complexity
  - Simple empirical substitutions -> phase diagrams -> physics based -> complex ML analyses
  - All families of glass: oxide, chalcogenide, fluoride, metallic
- Process-properties-product-composition should be considered
  - Raw material substitutions
  - Process-induced impurities
  - Performance envelopes
- Glass-ceramics have additional formulation considerations
  - Glass vs crystal phase partitioning
  - Heat treatment and microstructure development

# Acknowledgements



And YOU for  
your attention!

Gracias por escuchar!  
Gràcies per la seva atenció

